

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 with the following:

--On the basis of knowledge which had been gained with the occurrence of the prohormone procalcitonin in sepsis (cf. for example EP 0 656 121 B1), and starting from the hypothesis that other prohormones usually not observable might possibly also be detectable in the case of sepsis in the circulation of sepsis patients, the Applicant carried out an exploratory experiment on the detection of proadrenomedullin in sera of sepsis patients using a commercially available RIA with an antibody which binds to the amino acids 45-92 of ~~pre-proAM~~proAM but not to sequences of mature AM. The results, which are described in the publication WO 00/22439, show a concentration of an analyte provisionally designated as proadrenomedullin which is increased compared with healthy control persons. However, the measured increase was only of the order of magnitude of about twice the normal value, i.e. was relatively small. In view of literature data which report increased AM values of the order of magnitude of 12 times the normal value in the case of sepsis, the observed increase to about twice the normal value for the proAM immunoreactivity measured with the assay used did not appear very attractive for determining this "proAM immunoreactivity" instead of AM in sepsis diagnosis. Whether proadrenomedullin (22-185 or 22-146) was actually measured in the experiment described or whether the proadrenomedullin immunoreactivity measured in the manner described was attributable to one species or to a plurality of different species occurring in the patient samples could not be decided on the basis of the measured findings.--.